

PATENT

Application No.: 09/609,253
Attorney Docket No.: 00-007**AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS**

1. (CANCELLED)
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for use by a first container that is adapted to store a first medicine, the method comprising:
storing information regarding the first medicine; and
wirelessly communicating a signal between the first container and a second container, the second container adapted to store a second medicine,
the signal including an indication of a number of times that the second container is beyond a range in which the first container is able to communicate with the second container; and
generating at least one code based at least in part on the signal, the at least one code indicating whether at least one party has complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine.
3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 wherein wirelessly communicating a signal between the first container and a second container comprises at least one of transmitting information regarding the first medicine from the first container to the second container and receiving information regarding the second medicine from the second container.
4. (CANCELLED) The method of claim 2 further comprising generating at least one code based at least in part on the signal, the at least one code indicating whether at least one party has complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine.
5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 4 further comprising outputting the at least one code to at least one of a representative of an insurance company, a representative of a pharmacy and a representative of a medical facility.

PATENT

Application No.: 09/609,253
Attorney Docket No.: 00-007

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 further comprising detecting if the first container and the second container cannot communicate.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 6 further comprising determining if the first container and the second container are separated by a distance that prevents the first container and the second container from communicating.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7 further comprising determining a time when the first container and the second container are at least initially separated by the distance that prevents the first container and the second container from communicating.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 8 further comprising at least one of storing the time and transmitting the time.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 further comprising determining a distance between the first container and the second container based on the signal.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 10 further comprising at least one of storing the distance and transmitting the distance.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 10 further comprising determining a change in the distance between the first container and the second container based on the signal.

13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12 further comprising at least one of storing the change in the distance and transmitting the change in the distance.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 further comprising tracking a location of at least one of the first and the second containers.

PATENT

Application No.: 09/609,253
Attorney Docket No.: 00-007

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 14 wherein tracking the location of at least one of the first and the second containers comprises tracking the location of the at least one of the first and the second containers with a local positioning system.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 15 further comprising identifying the location of the at least one of the first and the second containers with the local positioning system.

17. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 15 further comprising:
obtaining information regarding a position of the at least one of the first and the second containers with the local positioning system; and
determining a distance between the first and the second containers based at least in part on the information.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 further comprising receiving information regarding a schedule for taking at least one of the first medicine and the second medicine.

19. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 18 further comprising storing the information.

20. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 18 wherein receiving information regarding a schedule for taking the first medicine comprises receiving the information regarding the schedule from at least one of a representative of an insurance company, a representative of a pharmacy, a representative of a medical facility, a representative of a manufacturer of at least one of the first and the second medicines and a party that is to take at least one of the first and the second medicines.

21. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 further comprising storing the first medicine in the first container.

PATENT

Application No.: 09/609,253
Attorney Docket No.: 00-007

22. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 21 further comprising detecting if a portion of the first medicine has been removed from the first container.

23. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 22 wherein detecting if a portion of the first medicine has been removed from the first container comprises detecting if the first container has been opened or closed.

24. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 22 wherein detecting if a portion of the first medicine has been removed from the first container comprises detecting a weight of the first container.

25. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 22 wherein detecting if a portion of the first medicine has been removed from the first container comprises detecting a count of the first medicine.

26. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 22 further comprising at least one of storing information regarding the portion and transmitting the information regarding the portion if the portion has been removed from the first container.

27. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 further comprising detecting if the second medicine has been stored in the second container.

28. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 27 further comprising detecting if a portion of the second medicine has been removed from the second container.

29. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 28 wherein detecting if the portion of the second medicine has been removed from the second container comprises receiving a signal from the second container that indicates that the portion of the second medicine has been removed from the second container.

PATENT

Application No.: 09/609,253
Attorney Docket No.: 00-007

30. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 28 further comprising at least one of storing information regarding the portion and transmitting the information regarding the portion if the portion has been removed from the second container.

31. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 30 further comprising storing the information regarding the second medicine, the information being stored within the first container.

32. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 28 further comprising determining if the first medicine is incompatible with the second medicine.

33. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 32 further comprising:
detecting if a party attempts to take the first medicine within a predetermined time period of taking the second medicine; and
generating a warning if the first medicine is incompatible with the second medicine if the first and second medicines are both taken during the predetermined time period.

34. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 33 further comprising storing an indicator of the warning.

35. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 33 further comprising transmitting an indicator of the warning.

36. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 35 wherein transmitting an indicator of the warning comprises transmitting the indicator of the warning to at

PATENT

Application No.: 09/609,253
Attorney Docket No.: 00-007

least one of a representative of an insurance company, a representative of a pharmacy, a representative of a medical facility and a family member.

37. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 27 further comprising receiving information regarding the second medicine stored within the second container.

38. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 37 wherein receiving information regarding the second medicine stored within the second container comprises receiving information transmitted by the second container.

39. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 wherein the first and the second medicines are the same medicine.

40. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 wherein at least one of the first and the second containers comprises a micro-needle based device.

41. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 further comprising determining if the first container is positioned so as to communicate with the second container, and if not, attempting to prevent a party from accessing at least one of the first and the second medicines.

42. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 41 wherein preventing a party from accessing at least one of the first and the second medicines comprises preventing the party from opening at least one of the first and the second containers.

43. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 further comprising tracking a number of times the first container is opened or closed.

44. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 further comprising tracking a number of times the second container is opened or closed.

45. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 44 wherein tracking a number of times the second container is opened or closed comprises:

PATENT

Application No.: 09/609,253
Attorney Docket No.: 00-007

receiving a signal from the second container each time the second container is opened or closed; and
counting a number of signals received from the second container.

46. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 further comprising storing at least a portion of a medical history of a party within the first container.

47. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 further comprising storing information regarding a third medicine in the first container if the first container is refilled with the third medicine.

48. (CANCELLED)

49. (ORIGINAL) A medicine container comprising:
a medicine storage region adapted to store a medicine; and
a communication device adapted to wirelessly communicate at least one signal between the medicine container and at least one other medicine container.

50. (ORIGINAL) The medicine container of claim 49 wherein the communication device comprises a transceiver.

51-115 (CANCELLED)

116. (ORIGINAL) A method comprising:
obtaining a first container for storing a first medicine, the first container being capable of wirelessly communicating with a second container for storing a second medicine; and

storing a first medicine in the first container.

117. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 116 further comprising:
obtaining the second container; and

PATENT

Application No.: 09/609,253
Attorney Docket No.: 00-007

storing the second medicine in the second container.

118. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 117 further comprising positioning the first container and the second container so that the first container and the second container may communicate.

119. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 118 further comprising receiving a code that indicates that the first container and the second container are positioned so that the first container and the second container may communicate.

120. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 119 further comprising providing the received code to at least one party.

121. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 120 wherein the at least one party comprises at least one of a representative of an insurance company, a representative of a medical facility and a representative of a pharmacy.

122. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 120 wherein providing the received code comprises providing an image of the received code.

123. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 120 wherein providing the received code comprises entering the received code during a telephone call.

124. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 120 wherein providing the received code comprises e-mailing the received code.

125. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 116 further comprising obtaining a refill for the first container